



Historic Imperial Hall, public gathering place in Vernal for many years, is being razed this week as a kickoff for the city's clean-up campaign.

VERNAL HALL RAZED:

Strike Against History

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VERNAL — To the youngsters, it's an eyesore, to the oldsters, it brings back memories, but anyway you look at it, Imperial Hall must go.

The first blows to be struck at the historic Imperial Hall came Tuesday when Gov. Calvin L. Rampton and Mayor Alvin Kay donned hard hats, picked up mallots and started the work of demolition. The death blows to the old "veteran" will come on Saturday, when Vernal's big "cleanup" drive starts, and will be delivered by the Jaycees.

It was with mixed emotions that the crowd viewed the familiar old building for perhaps the last time, for to many it brought nostalgic memories of proms, basketball games, theatricals, skating and commencement exercises. For many years, it was the only large public hall in Vernal and was used as a multi-purpose building.

The old Orpheus, as it was called originally, was built in 1911, a joint venture by C. W. Showalter, Andrew King and N. J. Meagher, Sr. Mr. Showalter was the manager for over 10 years. It is said that there was never a dull moment, for entertainment was usually in progress from roller-skating and children's matinee dances to theatricals, rallies and public meetings.

The building was later sold

and finally bought by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints which supervised it for several years. For many years it has been used for storage.

Franklin Walker and Willis Wallis president of the two L. Stakes here issued a proclamation giving the Jaycees the right to raze the building and salvage rights. The Jaycees plan to use the salvage money for another project.

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